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COUNTRY CHINA

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COMMUNIST CHINA

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SUMMARY

Amid much fanfare it is announced that the Russians benevolently have opened a hospital in Peking, staffed and equipped from Moscow, for the benefit of the Chinese people. Actually the hospital is the former Union Medical College, built and equipped by Americans through the Rockefeller Foundation, and operated until recently by American and Chinese doctors. If the hospital now needs renovating, it probably is because staff and equipment were sent to Korea or to military hospitals. Boasts of technical prowess and economic savings in the Chinese-Changchun Railway district dominated by Russians are equally hollow. As the Dairen Power Company made a huge "saving" in coal by closing down half its facilities, while a Russian technician worked his staff 20 days in an effort to substitute bamboo slats for tinplate, coal and tin apparently are very scarce.

In addition to direct admissions, resistance to the Russianization of Chinese industry is indicated by the increased talk of gains through Russian techniques and increased use in radio broadcasts of Chinese indoctrinated in the USSR. Also, resistance by women to taking over the work of men sent to Korea is apparent in appeals that women should "overcome their conservative" opposition to doing all the heavy farm work, along with their housework. One concession of equal pay for women is reported, but over "strenuous objections." Opposition to the Central Government monopoly on farm production taxes apparently is anticipated, as the offices are warned to strengthen their "escorting and reporting" systems.

Quoting Stalin as authority for the correctness of the move, action is taken fully to regiment college and technical graduates, while outright conscription of civilians for railway construction also is revealed. Rigid control over industry and commerce is to be maintained through a new organization, despite insistence that private capitalists still can operate, within narrow limitations and under the "leadership of the workers."

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